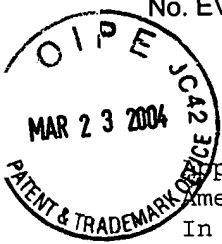


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Response Under 37 CFR 1.116  
Expedited Procedure  
Examining Group 1653



Application No.: 09/828,607  
Amendment dated March 23, 2004  
In response to Examiner's Office Action dated December 23, 2003

STK-070

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner : Hope A. Robinson  
Group Art Unit : 1653  
Applicants : Slobodan Vukicevic et al.  
Application No.: 09/828,607 Confirmation No.: 5821  
Filed : April 6, 2001  
For : REPAIR OF LARYNX, TRACHEA, AND OTHER  
FIBROCARILAGINOUS TISSUES

New York, New York  
March 23, 2004

Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

This is in reply to the December 23, 2003 Office Action  
in the above-identified application. Applicants are filing this  
reply before the expiration of the shortened statutory period for

Application No.: 09/828,607  
Amendment dated March 23, 2004  
In response to Examiner's Office Action dated December 23, 2003

this reply -- March 23, 2004 -- and, thus, no extension fee is due.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of the paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 11 of this paper.